

# NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION NOVEMBER 2, 2010

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that at an election to be held in the several towns, villages, wards, and election districts of the County of Green, on Tuesday, November 2, 2010, the following proposed Resolution of the County Board will be submitted to a vote of the people:

## RESOLUTION 7-2-10

### *Resolution Placing Advisory Referendum Question on November Ballot*

**WHEREAS**, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, over the past decade, the state of Wisconsin has transferred approximately \$1.2 billion from the state's segregated transportation fund to the state's general fund and replaced it with approximately \$800 million in General Obligation (GO) bonds, thereby, reducing the amount available for transportation purposes by approximately \$400 million; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's practice of transferring money from the segregated transportation fund to the general fund has eroded the public's confidence that the "user fees" they pay through the state gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees will be used for their intended purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's practice of replacing the dollars transferred from the state's segregated transportation fund with GO bonds puts our state in the precarious position of bonding to fund ongoing operations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pew Center on the States recently released a report that included Wisconsin as having one of the ten worst budget situations in the country and specifically cited transferring money from the transportation fund to fund ongoing operations as an example of one of the practices that has put Wisconsin in such an untenable position; and

**WHEREAS**, the debt service for these bonds will have to be paid for out of the state's general fund which hinders its ability to fund other programs like Shared Revenue, Youth Aids, Community Aids and courts in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, using the state's general obligation (GO) bonds in this way has hurt the state's bond rating. A report issued by CNN in 2009 listed Wisconsin as having the second worst GO bond rating in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, gas tax and vehicle registration fees comprise over 90% of the state's segregated transportation account. Revenues from these two sources have been declining and are inadequate to meet the existing transportation needs in this state; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is a fundamental component in its ability to attract and retain business and produce jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Green County deserve the right to have their voices heard on this important issue; and

**WHEREAS**, providing constitutional protection much like our neighbors in Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan and Ohio already have is the only way to ensure that this practice will not continue.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Green County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, that the following question will be put to the voters of Green County in an advisory referendum during the November 2010 election:

Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund?

and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Clerk is directed to cause a copy of the Notice of Referendum to be published in the county's official newspaper as required by law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this resolution and a copy of the results of the advisory referendum to the Wisconsin Counties Association.

### **The question will appear on the ballot as follows:**

Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund? Yes or No

### EXPLANATION

This is an advisory referendum only. A "yes" vote indicates that you support a constitutional amendment to prohibit using transportation user fees (i.e., state gas tax and vehicle registration fees) for any purpose other than funding transportation in Wisconsin. A "no" vote indicates that you do not support such a constitutional amendment. Your vote on this question will not directly result in the passage or non-passage of a constitutional amendment. The purpose of the question is to advise your representatives of the amount of support for and against a constitutional amendment limiting the use of transportation user fees for transportation purposes only.

DONE in the City of Monroe,  
this 22nd day of October, 2010.  
Michael J. Doyle, Green County Clerk